Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 18-32 to page 11, lines 1-3 with the following amended paragraph

In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the dolly device 212 comprises a base having an adjustable assembly ~~(not shown)~~ 216 configured to selectively locate the support surface 225 at one of a plurality of heights relative to the base 215. The adjustable assembly 216 could provide the dolly device 212 with a plurality of predetermined alternative operational heights relative to the base 215 such that a container could be transported from locations of varying heights eliminating the need to adjust the heights of the desired locations in which the containers are being delivered. Providing this additional characteristic provides various benefits such as eliminating costs and downtime in rearranging the facility in order to process the containers 260 throughout the system. Furthermore, the adjustable assembly 216 can comprise, for example, a hydraulic or pneumatic lift, a cam mechanism, a scissors jack arrangement, or a multi-pin locking device permitting the base 215 to adjust the height of the support surface 225 on which the container 260 rests. The vertical adjustability could provide the user with finite control, permitting them to finely adjust the height of the support surface 225 to better align the container 260 with the station surface 270 of a particular desired loading or unloading station. This would also provide more flexibility to the dolly device, making it more widely applicable without customization.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 3-17 with the following amended paragraph.

In accordance with one or more of the above-described objects, the present invention provides a dolly device for loading and unloading containers that includes a base having a lower portion supported by a plurality of roller devices, a support surface which is operably mounted relative to the base having a plurality of friction reducing members, a control frame mounted above the base and the support surface for pivoting between a plurality of positions limiting the movement of a container, and a locking mechanism having at least one locking position for maintaining the control frame in one of a plurality of stop positions. In one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the control frame is mounted by support members which extend between the base and the control frame. In particular, the support members provide support to the control frame to allow for its pivotal movement relative to

the base. In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the support surface is slidably mounted along the base of the dolly device. Moreover, the support surface can be adjustable along substantially ~~horizontal~~lengthwise and/or substantially ~~vertical~~widthwise axes relative to the base.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 25-32 to page 6, lines 1-13 with the following amended paragraph.

FIG. 2 generally illustrates a sectional view of one exemplary embodiment of the present invention describing a slidable support 18 between the base 15 and the lower frame 27. As will be explained, and as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the support surface 25 can be configured to move along the base 15 in both the ~~horizontal~~lengthwise (A_H) and ~~vertical~~widthwise (A_V) axes relative to the base 15. As shown in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2, the lower frame 27 can be slidably mounted on the base 15 by utilizing a linear rail configuration, wherein the lower frame 27 rides along an upper slidable support 20 along the substantially ~~horizontal~~lengthwise axis (A_H) relative to the base 15. In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2, the lower frame 27 has at least two recessed grooves 32 which extend along at least a portion of the length of the lower frame 27 and are configured to receive and interface with the upper slidable support 20. The upper slidable support 20 can comprise at least two substantially parallel beams 26 having fixed ends, wherein the superstructure 14 traverses the upper slidable support 20 along the ~~horizontal~~lengthwise axis (A_H). The beams 26 of the upper slidable support 20 can have a variety of outer circumferences on which the superstructure 14 can traverse, including rectangular, grooved, polygonal or cylindrical shapes. In another embodiment of the invention for use in manufacturing facilities and the like, the lower frame 27 might be configured to traverse along the ~~horizontal~~lengthwise axis (A_H) relative to the base 15 up to at least 18 inches permitting a user to shift the container 260 to readily align and interact with a loading or unloading station to further facilitate transfer procedures.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 14-28 with the following amended paragraph.

Also as indicated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the upper slidable support 20 can also be fixedly attached to the lower slidable support 22 by way of an intermediate member 31. The upper slidable

support 20 is illustrated in this example as resting on the base 15, but is not attached at a fixed point to the base 15 so that the support surface 25 can move along the ~~vertical~~widthwise axis (A_V) providing lateral movement for easily aligning the dolly device 12 while loading or unloading a container 260. The upper slidable support 20 is attached at fixed points along the intermediate member 31. The intermediate member 31 rides along the lower slideable support 22 in a manner substantially similar to that of the linear rail configuration previously discussed. The lower slidable support 22 is illustrated as comprising at least two beams 34 substantially similar to those of the upper slidable support 20, which can comprise various shapes, such as a rectangular or cylindrical configuration. The beams 34 can be integrally fixed to the base 15 of the dolly device 12 at both ends, such that two beams 34 help define a rigid structure which allows the lower slidable support 22 to extend along the same planar axis as the base 15.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 29-32 to page 7, lines 1-8 with the following amended paragraph.

In another embodiment of the present invention configured for manufacturing facilities, the support surface 25 can traverse along the ~~vertical~~widthwise axis (A_V) relative to the base 15 at least 4 inches permitting a user to shift and align the container 260 to easily align and interact with a loading or unloading station. It is also important to note, that although FIG. 2 illustrates a linear rail configuration to slidably mount the support surface 25 to the base 15 of the dolly device 12, numerous other configurations could be implemented to slidably mount the support surface 25, such as frictionless members or hydraulics. For example, in another embodiment of the present invention, frictionless members (i.e. steel balls or bearing devices) could be mounted to the lower frame 27 such that the frictionless members would ride on a surface of the base, allowing the user to move the support surface 25, and therefore, the container 260, along the ~~horizontal~~lengthwise and/or ~~vertical~~widthwise axes relative to the base 15.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 4-32 with the following amended paragraph.

FIGS. 5, 6 and 7 further illustrate the method by which a container 260 can be loaded and unloaded from the dolly device 212 as described in the present invention. As shown in FIG.

5, a container 260 is loaded onto the dolly device 212 such that its base 215 is in contact with the support surface 225 and the control frame 235 surrounds the upper portion of the container 260 and the locking mechanism 235 is positioned such that the pivotal movement of the control frame 235 is limited. As shown in FIG. 6, the locking mechanism 245 has now been released such that the pin 249 has been released from insertion with the key 247, which now allows the control frame 235 to pivot around its pivotal axis. Upon being pivoted, the control frame 235 interfaces with the container 260 wherein the extension 239 at one end of the control frame 235 comes into contact with the side of the container providing leverage to the user and initially moves the slidable support surface 225 towards the end of the base 215 to be readied for unloading. Finally, as shown in FIG. 7, once the dolly device 212 is moved into close proximity or contact with the station at which the container 260 is to be unloaded, the dolly device 212 is capable of becoming adjacent to the unloading station such that the unloading station is adjacent the support surface 225 that has been slidably moved along the ~~horizontal~~lengthwise and/or ~~vertical~~widthwise axis relative to the base 215. In one exemplary embodiment, as shown in FIG. 7, the locking mechanism 235 can be reestablished such that the pin 249 once again is in contact with the key 247 such that the control frame 235 is at another one of its stop positions (e.g., an unloading/loading position) while the container 260 is being unloaded from the support surface 235 to the unloading station. As depicted in FIG. 7, the dolly device 212 can have the support surface 225 be substantially adjacent to the station surface 270 by having the wheels 217 which allow the dolly device 212 to be moved, slide beyond the contact point of the station surface 270 to easily allow the container 260 to be transported to or from the dolly device 212. In addition, it can be appreciated by those skilled in the art that to provide additional security and safety while loading or unloading containers 260 the wheels 217 can be locked such that the dolly device 212 is substantially prevented from shifting or rolling as the container 260 is transported to or from the dolly device 212.